



# GULF COAST RECOVERY & RESTORATION: 101

Basic policies, legal processes, and terms relevant to  
the Deepwater Horizon disaster



MARCH 22, 2012

This resource guides readers through the key processes and systems that have been or will be initiated to help recover and restore the Gulf of Mexico following *Deepwater Horizon*. It includes:

- An overview of the major recovery processes and funding sources;
- Explanations of the origin, progress, and current status of each process;
- Information about the relationship among different processes;
- Answers to frequently asked questions about various planning efforts; and
- Reference items, such as citations to crucial resources.

# Deepwater Horizon Restoration & Recovery Processes

## Overview

There are multiple ongoing processes for helping the Gulf of Mexico and impacted communities recover from the injuries caused by the *Deepwater Horizon* oil disaster. These pages provide an overview of the major regional processes and how they do, or potentially will, interrelate.

## Table of Contents

<i>Overview.....</i>	<i>1</i>
<i>NRDA .....</i>	<i>3</i>
<i>What is Restoration?.....</i>	<i>5</i>
<i>Gulf Task Force .....</i>	<i>6</i>
<i>CWA &amp; RESTORE.....</i>	<i>7</i>
<i>FAQs .....</i>	<i>9</i>
<i>Additional Resources ...</i>	<i>11</i>

## Required by the Oil Pollution Act

### Economic Damages Recovery

The Oil Pollution Act requires that individuals, businesses, and governments be compensated for economic injuries and losses suffered as a result of an oil spill. In early March 2012, BP and the Plaintiffs' Steering Committee, which coordinates the individual and business plaintiffs in the *Deepwater Horizon* litigation, reached a preliminary agreement to settle the majority of economic damages and medical claims for an estimated \$7.8 billion. The Court must approve any final settlement.

**Injured parties are still filing claims and lawsuits.**

**See page 10**

### Natural Resource Damage Assessment

Responsible parties must fund the restoration of the Gulf's natural resources to the condition they would be in if the spill had not occurred. The amount the responsible parties must pay is determined through a legal process.

**"Restoration"** includes fixing direct impacts to a natural resource, and compensating for the lost use of a natural resource.

**Work on the injury assessment began in 2010 and is ongoing.**

**See pages 3-4**

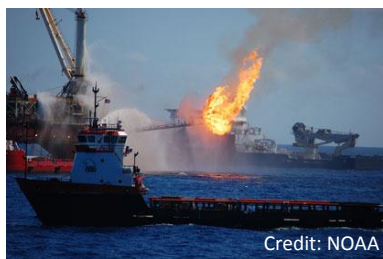
### What is the \$20 billion BP fund?

BP set aside \$20 billion in trust, which has been and will continue to be used toward various claims for damages, including economic and natural resource damage claims. Ultimately, BP may spend more or less than this amount, depending on actual injuries and possible settlement agreements for the different claims.

## Who are the Responsible Parties?

Thus far, the following entities have been identified as “**responsible parties**” for the *Deepwater Horizon* incident that occurred at the Macondo Well (MC252):

- BP Exploration and Production, Inc.;
- Triton Asset Leasing GmbH;
- Transocean Holdings Inc.;
- Transocean Offshore Deepwater Drilling Inc.;
- Transocean Deepwater Inc.;
- Anadarko Petroleum;
- Anadarko E&P Company LP; and
- MOEX Offshore 2007 LLC.



### Required by the Clean Water Act

#### Discharge Penalties

The responsible parties face civil and/or criminal penalties for discharging oil in violation of the federal Clean Water Act. Unless amended, the current law states that all penalty monies will go to the **Oil Spill Liability Trust Fund**.

The **RESTORE the Gulf Coast States Act** would divert 80% of civil penalty monies to Gulf recovery (including environmental and economic recovery unrelated to the oil spill).

**Congress is currently considering the RESTORE Act.**

See pages 7-8

### Required by Exec. Order 13,554

#### Gulf Coast Ecosystem Restoration Task Force

In October 2010, President Obama issued an executive order establishing the Gulf Coast Ecosystem Restoration Task Force, and tasked it with coordinating the federal government’s Gulf Coast restoration activities.

The Task Force was given the responsibility of working with local, state, and federal entities, and of developing a strategy delineating an agenda for ecosystem restoration.

**The Task Force released its Restoration Strategy in Dec. 2011.**

See page 6

### What about other disaster recovery efforts?

It is important to keep in mind that there are myriad restoration and recovery processes ongoing in the Gulf. Other processes include state-led and federal efforts that are independent of the *Deepwater Horizon* response, such as ongoing recovery post-Hurricane Katrina.



# Natural Resource Damage Assessment

## What is NRDA?

Required by the federal **Oil Pollution Act (OPA)**, the Natural Resource Damage Assessment (NRDA) is the process that federal and state governments use to determine the injuries to natural resources caused by an oil spill, translate the injuries into damages, and then develop an overarching restoration plan. The cost of the assessment, planning, and restoration is borne by the parties responsible for the spill.

## What sorts of damages are covered?

The goal of a NRDA is to restore natural resources to the condition they would have been in but for an injurious event, like an oil spill. This includes several types of damages, such as the cost of **replacing or restoring services** that natural resources provide (e.g., fish habitat) and the **loss of use** caused by natural resource injuries (e.g., the inability to use the beach for recreation).

Once the total amount of liability is determined, the trustees can only use the funding to recover the natural resources damaged by the spill, and to reimburse the costs of conducting the assessment. The compensation cannot be used for any other purpose.

*NRDA is the primary mechanism for governments to obtain compensation from responsible parties for an oil spill's injuries to natural resources. The Deepwater Horizon Natural Resource Damage Assessment (NRDA) has been underway since 2010.*

### NRDA is a remedial process, not a punitive one.

Responsible parties are only required to fix what was injured by the spill, no more. Other laws and processes have a punitive purpose—for example, the Clean Water Act (see pages 7-8).

## What is restoration? When is it early or emergency restoration?

► **RESTORATION** refers to actions to restore, rehabilitate, replace, or acquire the equivalent of natural resources and services injured by an oil spill.

➔ *See more on restoration on page 5*

**15 C.F.R.  
§ 990.30**

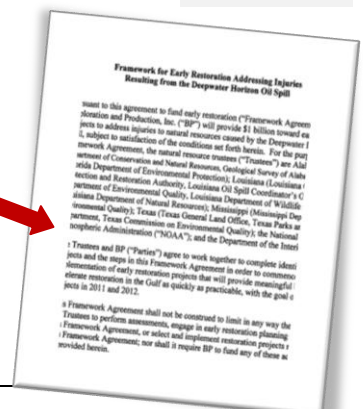
► **EMERGENCY RESTORATION** refers to actions that are necessary to avoid irreversible losses to, or lessen continuing dangers to, natural resources.

**15 C.F.R.  
§ 990.26**

► **EARLY RESTORATION** refers not to a different *type* of restoration, but rather to its *timing*. Because NRDA's can take years to complete, early restoration agreements enable parties to get started on mutually agreed-upon restoration projects before the assessment process has been fully completed.

*not defined  
in statute  
or  
regulations*

*The Deepwater Horizon early restoration agreement includes criteria for choosing projects and methods for determining how the funding BP provides at this stage will be offset against its ultimate liability.*



### EARLY RESTORATION

**Funding:** On April 21, 2011, the natural resource trustees announced that BP had agreed to provide **\$1 billion** in funding for early restoration projects. Projects are anticipated to begin in 2012.

**Planning:** On December 14, 2011, the trustees released a **Draft Phase I Early Restoration Plan** describing an initial suite of proposed early restoration projects. If implemented, the initial project costs would total approximately **\$57 million**.

## Who is involved in the process?

NRDA is led by a council of federal and state trustees who oversee the legal process. The trustees use restoration funding to cover the costs of the assessment and to achieve natural resource restoration.

Deepwater Horizon Federal & State NRDA Lead Trustees	
<b>U.S. Dept. of the Interior</b>	Fish & Wildlife Service
<b>U.S. Dept. of Commerce</b>	National Oceanic & Atmospheric Administration
<b>U.S. Dept. of Defense</b>	Army Corps of Engineers
<b>State of Louisiana</b>	Coastal Protection & Restoration Authority
<b>State of Mississippi</b>	Dept. of Environmental Quality
<b>State of Alabama</b>	Dept. of Conservation & Natural Resources
<b>State of Florida</b>	Dept. of Environmental Protection
<b>State of Texas</b>	Parks and Wildlife Dept.

## What are the stages of a NRDA?

NRDA is divided into three stages: **(I) Preassessment**, **(II) Injury Assessment & Restoration Planning**, and **(III) Restoration Implementation**. One of the key components of the *Deepwater Horizon* NRDA process is the use of a Programmatic Environmental Impact Statement, which is intended to guide the development of the final restoration plan.



## Where are we now in the NRDA Process?

As of early 2012, following a scoping period in spring 2011, the NRDA trustees are in the midst of preparing a **Draft Programmatic Environment Impact Statement (PEIS)**. An Environmental Impact Statement is a document agencies are required to prepare under the federal National Environmental Policy Act before they undertake any major projects significantly affecting the environment. The Draft PEIS will detail the consequences of restoration actions and analyze alternatives.

### Lead Trustee

The **National Oceanic and Atmospheric Administration (NOAA)** is the lead trustee for the completion of the PEIS.



# What is *Restoration*?

## What does the term *Restoration* mean in the context of a NRDA?

### RESTORATION:

Actions authorized under the Oil Pollution Act that are intended to make the public and the environment whole after an injury to public resources. Public resources can include things like birds, fish, plants, property, subsistence fishing, profits, and recreation. Restoration involves a combination of **primary** and **compensatory** restoration actions.

### PRIMARY RESTORATION:

Any action that returns injured resources to the condition they would have been in but for the damaging event—a condition referred to as “**baseline**.” There are different primary restoration methods, including facilitating the *recovery* or *rehabilitation* of resources by repairing injuries, *replacement* of lost resources, or *acquisition* of equivalent resources.

### COMPENSATORY RESTORATION:

Any action that compensates the public for **interim losses**, measured from the date of injury to the date resources are returned to baseline condition. Interim losses include lost use of resources or loss of the services that resources provide. Compensatory restoration must provide resources or services of similar quality and value to those lost.

### What are “Valuation” and “Scaling”?

In order to determine whether a restoration action properly compensates the public for injured resources, it is necessary to **value** injured natural resources and the services they provide. Resource values typically are measured in dollars, but also can be measured in units of the resource or units of services. Once a resource has been valued, **scaling methods** assist the trustees in determining the size, scope, and duration of restoration action that will be necessary to return a resource to baseline.

## What Do NRD Restoration Actions Look Like?

Restoration actions can be “active” or “passive.” **Active restoration actions** are “on-the-ground” activities that can occur at the site of the injury or off-site (e.g., wetland revegetation). **Passive restoration actions** are changes in land use or management policies (e.g., purchasing property for conservation).

<i>Injured Resource</i>	<i>Examples of Potential Restoration Actions</i>
<b>Shore birds</b>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"><li>• Nest site enhancement</li><li>• Minimizing vehicular access to bird habitat</li><li>• Public education and outreach</li></ul>
<b>Wetland habitat</b>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"><li>• Wetland revegetation</li><li>• Purchase of marsh property</li><li>• Fish stocking</li></ul>
<b>Recreational boating</b>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"><li>• Allowing natural recovery</li><li>• Constructing a boat ramp</li></ul>

### THE IMPORTANCE OF MONITORING

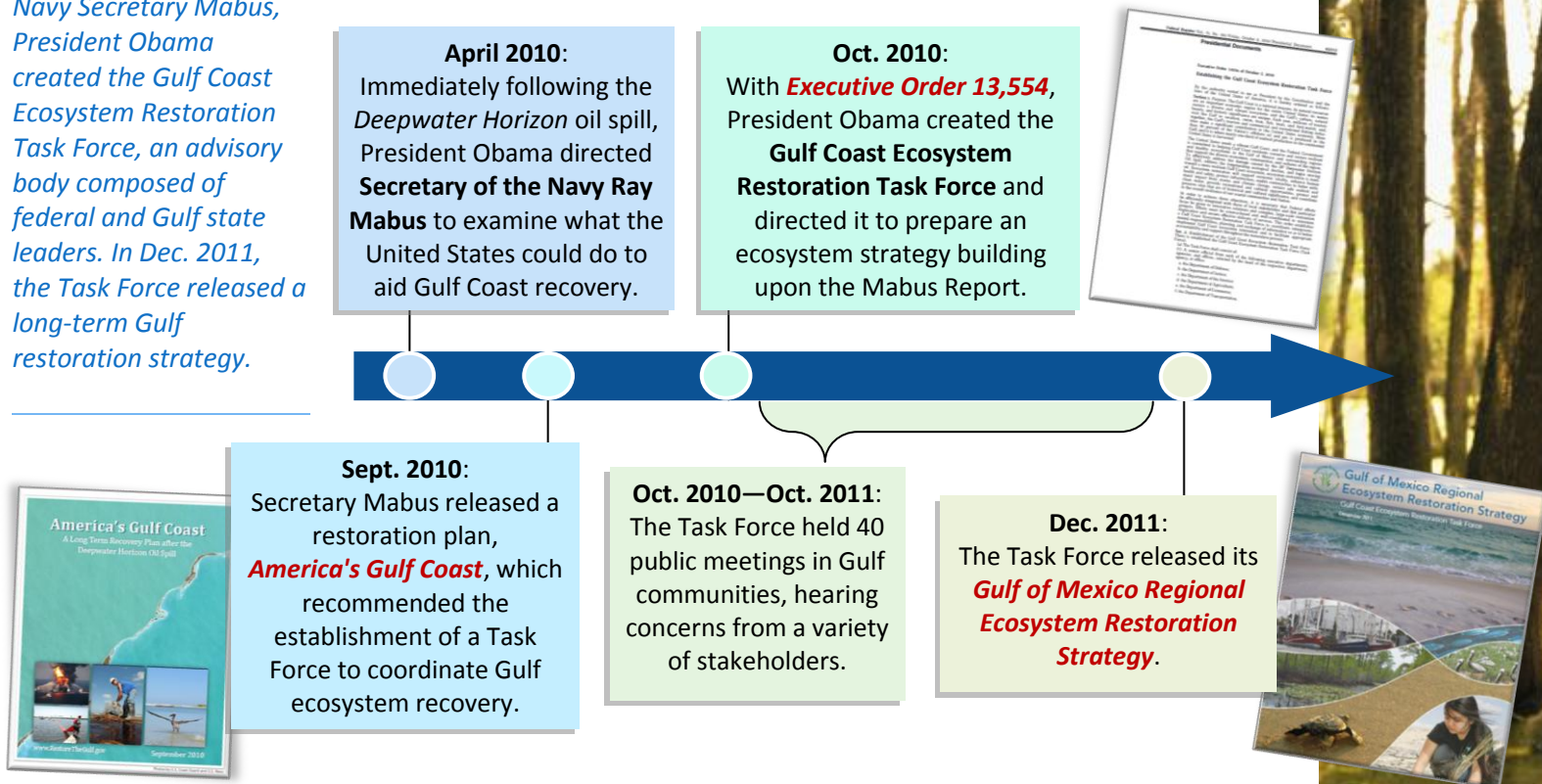
It is essential to monitor restoration processes from start to finish. Monitoring allows the trustees to determine whether restoration projects are effective and economical, and helps keep restoration projects on-track. Monitoring also provides data that can improve future restoration projects.



# Gulf Coast Ecosystem Restoration Task Force

In 2010, following the recommendation of Navy Secretary Mabus, President Obama created the Gulf Coast Ecosystem Restoration Task Force, an advisory body composed of federal and Gulf state leaders. In Dec. 2011, the Task Force released a long-term Gulf restoration strategy.

## How Does the Task Force Fit into Gulf Restoration?



## The Task Force's Restoration Strategy

### Task Force Members

The Task Force is composed of 5 state leaders appointed by President Obama at the recommendation of the Gulf state governors, plus 11 federal officials. **EPA Administrator Lisa Jackson** chairs the Task Force.



The final *Regional Ecosystem Restoration Strategy* reflects the Task Force's broad mandate to address the decades of decline in the Gulf ecosystem—beyond just the effects of the April 2010 disaster. The Strategy details major, coordinated actions required to achieve four primary Gulf restoration goals:

1. **Restore and conserve habitat;**
2. **Restore water quality;**
3. **Replenish and protect living coastal and marine resources;** and
4. **Enhance community resilience.**

Some key areas of concern cited by the Strategy are: **wetland loss**; **excess flow of nutrients from the Mississippi River**; and **the vulnerability of coastal communities to storms and sea level rise**. The Strategy calls upon Congress to dedicate a portion of penalties recovered from *Deepwater Horizon* responsible parties to Gulf recovery, and to establish a formal successor body to the Task Force.

### What is next for the Task Force?

As of now, the Task Force lacks independent funding to implement its Strategy. The RESTORE Act, a bill pending before Congress (see p. 8), is one potential funding source for the Council's restoration projects. Currently, the Task Force is identifying lead agencies and partners, and exploring how existing resources may be realigned to fund recovery work.

# Clean Water Act and the RESTORE the Gulf Coast States Act

## Clean Water Act

The Clean Water Act (CWA) is the nation's principal water quality statute. The CWA regulates the discharge of pollutants into the navigable waters of the United States, including ocean waters out to 200 nautical miles from shore.

### Relevant Agencies

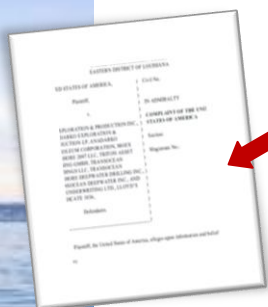
The **EPA** and **Coast Guard** jointly implement CWA Section 311, while the **Department of Justice** is responsible for bringing enforcement actions.



**Section 311 of the CWA** specifically prohibits discharges of oil into navigable waters or onto shorelines in amounts that may be harmful to the public or natural resources (like fish or wildlife). "Discharges" include oil spills and leaks. EPA regulations state that a harmful quantity of oil is any amount that causes a sheen on or discoloration in water, or sludge on shorelines. In cases of oil spills, the CWA allows the United States to recover **civil and criminal penalties** from violators.

## Civil Penalties for Violators

The CWA allows the United States to file suit to recover civil fines from the owner, operator, and/or entity in charge of a facility from which oil was discharged. If the federal court hearing the United States' case finds that defendants violated the CWA, the violators will be subject to civil penalties. If the court further finds that the spill resulted from defendants' **gross negligence** or **willful misconduct**, penalties may be increased.



**On December 15, 2010, the United States filed suit in federal court seeking CWA civil penalties from BP and other responsible parties.**

## Where Do Recovered Civil Penalties Go?

The CWA states that recovered fines must be paid into the **Oil Spill Liability Trust Fund**. Legislation is pending before Congress that would amend the CWA and direct a portion of civil penalties recovered in the *Deepwater Horizon* case to the Gulf region. One such bill is the RESTORE Act (see opposite).

### CWA penalties are punitive.

Unlike NRDA, CWA penalties are punitive. The penalties are a punishment that gives potential violators an incentive to comply with the law and prevent oil spills from occurring. Because penalties fund future oil spill response efforts, they also help ensure that violators, not taxpayers, are responsible for environmental damage response costs.

*The Clean Water Act prohibits discharges of oil into U.S. ocean waters and penalizes violators with civil fines.*

*The RESTORE Act is pending federal legislation that would direct 80% of any fines collected in connection with Deepwater Horizon to Gulf recovery.*

### What is the relationship between the Clean Water Act and the Oil Pollution Act?

Congress added § 311 to the CWA following tragic oil spills in the 1960s. Then, after the *Exxon Valdez* 1989 oil spill in Prince William Sound, Congress saw the need for more comprehensive oil spill regulation and passed the **Oil Pollution Act of 1990 (OPA)**. Some provisions of OPA amended the CWA, while others regulate oil spills outside of the CWA. In particular, OPA amended the CWA by granting EPA greater authority to impose civil and criminal penalties against oil dischargers. OPA also added oil spill reporting, removal, planning, and prevention requirements to CWA § 311.



## How Much Money Could Be Recovered?

In a civil penalties case, the CWA grants the court discretion to calculate penalties on the basis of either the duration of the spill or the amount of oil discharged. The *Deepwater Horizon* release lasted **87 days**. Exactly how many barrels of oil spilled into the Gulf is still in dispute, but the federal government estimates **4.1 million barrels**. The amount of penalties will depend on a court's factual findings about the disaster, whether a court finds the responsible parties' actions were caused by gross negligence or willful misconduct, and whether the case is settled or tried. If the parties settle, they may agree upon a penalty amount as part of the settlement.

If Violators Acted with Due Diligence:				If Violators Acted with Negligence or Misconduct:					
<div>\$37,500 per day</div>	×	<div>87 spill days</div>	=	<div>\$3.3 million</div>	<div>\$140,000 per day</div>	×	<div>87 spill days</div>	=	<div>\$12 million</div>
OR				OR					
<div>\$1100 per barrel</div>	×	<div>4.1 million barrels</div>	=	<div>\$4.5 billion</div>	<div>\$4,300 per barrel</div>	×	<div>4.1 million barrels</div>	=	<div>\$17.6 billion</div>

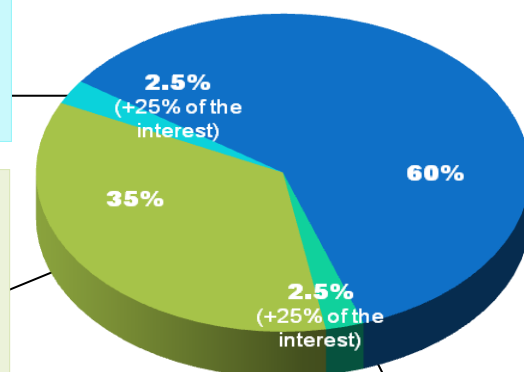
## The RESTORE the Gulf Coast States Act

Congress is considering a bill known as the **RESTORE Act**. The bill would create a Gulf Coast Restoration Trust Fund, which would receive **80% of any civil fines** paid by parties responsible for the *Deepwater Horizon* oil spill. The Fund would support a variety of projects aimed at helping the Gulf recover from injuries experienced as a result of decades of oil and gas development in the Gulf, including the effects of *Deepwater Horizon*. The versions of the RESTORE Act before the House (**H.R. 3096**) and before the Senate (**S. 1400**) differ in some ways, but are substantially similar.

"RESTORE Act" is short for Resources and Ecosystem Sustainability, Tourist Opportunities, and Revived Economies of the Gulf Coast States Act.

**Establish five "Centers of Excellence" for Gulf Coast Research.** One "Center of Excellence" would be established in each Gulf state to further ecosystem restoration science, monitoring, and technology.

**Give Money to States for Local Recovery.** Roughly one-third of the Trust Fund **would go directly to the five Gulf states**, in equal shares, to be used for ecological and economic restoration. States could only use the funds for specific purposes, including restoration of natural resources, workforce development, job creation, tourism promotion, promotion of Gulf seafood, and flood protection.



**Give Money to an Interstate "Restoration Council" for Local and Interstate Recovery.** The RESTORE Act would create a **Gulf Coast Ecosystem Restoration Council**, whose members would be federal officials and the Gulf state governors. Half of the Council's funds would go toward developing and implementing a science-based funding plan, and the other half would be divided between Gulf states according to how each state was impacted by the oil spill.

**Fund Long-Term Monitoring of Gulf Fisheries.** The Act would establish a **Fisheries and Ecosystem Endowment** to fund monitoring efforts to ensure the long-term ecological and economic sustainability of Gulf fisheries.

**WHAT ABOUT INTEREST EARNED ON THE FUND?** As noted above, the House and Senate bills propose using 50% of the interest for the Fisheries Endowment and the Centers of Excellence. The House bill would direct the remaining 50% into the Fund; the Senate bill would direct it to a national **Oceans Endowment**, which would be granted annually to all U.S. coastal states for programs to restore, maintain, and understand marine resources.

## Frequently Asked Questions

### Q: What is the Oil Pollution Act?

**A:** Congress passed the Oil Pollution Act of 1990 (OPA) in the wake of the *Exxon Valdez* spill in Prince William Sound in Alaska. It provides a framework for responding to and recovering from oil spills, including delineating responsibilities and apportioning liability. It clarifies that the parties responsible for the incident are liable for associated removal costs and damages (see 33 U.S.C. § 2702).

The amount of damages that a responsible party is obligated to pay depends on the party's behavior. If the oil spill was caused by standard **negligence**, liability for an offshore facility (and a mobile offshore drilling unit) is typically capped at \$75 million. However, if the oil spill was caused by **gross negligence**, **willful misconduct**, or a **violation of a federal safety, construction, or operating regulation**, then the party is responsible for all consequential damages.

#### RESPONSIBLE PARTIES ARE LIABLE FOR DAMAGES TO:

- Natural resources;
- Real or personal property;
- Subsistence use;
- Government revenues;
- Profits and earning capacity; and
- Public services.

### Q: What is GoMRI?

**A:** BP pledged \$500 million over 10 years (\$50 million per year, ending May 31, 2020) to support independent scientific research on oil spill impacts, mitigation, detection, characterization, and remediation, focusing on the Gulf of Mexico. The **Gulf of Mexico Research Initiative (GoMRI)** is administered by the Gulf of Mexico Alliance. The requests for proposal and



research themes are developed by a Research Board, which also reviews and selects the projects to be funded. The Research Board consists of 20 members, 10 of whom were appointed by BP and 10 of whom were appointed by the Gulf of Mexico Alliance.

### Q: Where does the Oil Spill Liability Trust Fund fit in?

**A:** The **Oil Spill Liability Trust Fund** is an account created by Congress to hold certain payments, contributions, taxes, and penalties paid by oil and gas companies. The Fund has two components: the **Emergency Fund**, which pays for things like oil spill removal activities, and the **Principal Fund**, which pays for things like certain uncompensated oil spill damages and the administration of OPA. There is no cap on how much money the fund can hold, but there are limits on how much money can be spent from the Fund on any one incident. The Fund is defined in the Internal Revenue Code.

#### Administrator

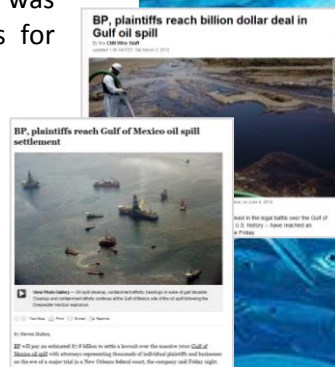
The U.S. Coast Guard's  
National Pollution  
Funds Center  
administers the Oil Spill  
Liability Trust Fund.



## Q: What about the economic damages claims?

**A:** The Oil Pollution Act requires that individuals, businesses, and governments be compensated for economic injuries and losses suffered as a result of an oil spill. Depending on the claim, the claimant, and what the claimant has already received, claims can be filed through an established claims process, with the responsible party, through the Oil Spill Liability Trust Fund, and/or by filing a lawsuit. The **Gulf Coast Claims Facility (GCCF)**, run by Kenneth Feinberg, was established to handle *Deepwater Horizon* damages claims from individuals and businesses. On **March 2, 2012**, BP and the Plaintiffs' Steering Committee reached a consensus on the key terms of agreements to settle the majority of the economic loss and medical claims. On March 8, 2012, the GCCF was officially terminated and a transitional court-supervised claims process was established. If the court approves the settlement, a new court-supervised process for handling economic claims will be created.

*As of early March 2012, settlement agreements for the majority of economic loss and medical claims are being drafted. These settlements would not affect state and local government claims, or the Department of Justice's Clean Water Act and Oil Pollution Act claims. Prior to approving any final settlement agreements, the Court will engage in public outreach efforts and conduct a fairness hearing.*



## Q: What is the multidistrict litigation?

**A:** The multidistrict litigation (MDL) for the *Deepwater Horizon* incident, **MDL No. 2179**, is a consolidation of hundreds of lawsuits related to the explosion and oil spill. While the lawsuits within the MDL raise different types of legal claims, such as personal injury, contract, tort, and environmental claims, the different claims will require a court to answer related factual questions. For this reason, the U.S. Judicial Panel on Multidistrict Litigation determined that it would be efficient to create an MDL. The Panel assigned **Judge Carl J. Barbier of the U.S. District Court for the Eastern District of Louisiana** to oversee the *Deepwater Horizon* MDL. Cases filed in any federal court that are related to the oil spill ordinarily will be transferred into the MDL. The MDL trial was originally set to begin on **February 27, 2012**, but was postponed pending finalization of the settlements between BP and the Plaintiffs' Steering Committee.

### PLAINTIFFS' STEERING COMMITTEE (PSC)

Judge Barbier appointed fifteen law firms and two liaison counsel to form a Committee to enhance coordination between the numerous individual and business plaintiffs in the MDL.

## Q: What is involved in a settlement process?

**A:** Some of the legal processes described previously may be resolved through a settlement agreement rather than a full trial. Any settlement must be submitted to the trial court for review; if the court approves the parties' agreement, it will issue a **consent decree** noting so. The structure and content of a settlement agreement may vary. NRDA settlements must follow the requirements set out in NOAA's regulations, which specify that the trustees may reach a settlement if the agreement "is adequate in the judgment of the trustees to satisfy the goal of OPA and is fair, reasonable, and in the public interest, with particular consideration of the adequacy of the settlement to restore, replace, rehabilitate, or acquire the equivalent of the injured natural resources and services." It also limits the use of settlement funds to implementation of a publicly reviewed restoration plan.



## Additional Resources

### Glossary of Key Terms

<b>Baseline</b>	The condition of natural resources if the injurious event had not occurred.
<b>Consent Decree</b>	A negotiated court order containing and authorizing the settlement of a lawsuit.
<b>Damage</b>	A legally defined term describing the translation of natural resource injuries into the restoration actions necessary to make the public and ecosystem whole.
<b>Injury</b>	An adverse impact on a natural resource resulting from an incident like an oil spill. Injuries can be direct or indirect, and can alter a resource or impair a service that the resource provides.
<b>Interim Losses</b>	The value of lost resources or services measured from the time of the injurious event to the time when resources and services are restored to their baseline condition.
<b>Restoration</b>	In the context of a Natural Resource Damage Assessment, this term describes actions to restore, rehabilitate, replace, or acquire the equivalent of natural resources and services injured by an oil spill. It includes both primary and compensatory restoration.

### Important Legal References

<b>Clean Water Act § 311, “Oil and Hazardous Substance Liability”</b>	33 U.S.C. § 1321
<b>Gulf Coast Ecosystem Restoration Task Force</b>	Executive Order No. 13,554, 75 Fed. Reg. 195 (Oct. 5, 2010)
<b>Oil Pollution Act</b>	33 U.S.C. § 2701 <i>et seq.</i>
<b>NOAA’s Natural Resource Damage Assessment Regulations</b>	15 C.F.R. § 990 <i>et seq.</i>
<b>Oil Spill Liability Trust Fund</b>	26 U.S.C. § 9509
<b>The RESTORE the Gulf Coast States Act</b>	S. 1400/H.R. 3096, 112th Congress (2011)
<b><i>United States v. BP Exploration and Production, Inc. et al.</i></b>	No. 2:10-cv-04536 (E.D. Louisiana, filed Dec. 15, 2010)
<b>Framework Early Restoration Agreement</b>	<a href="http://www.restorethegulf.gov/sites/default/files/documents/pdf/framework-for-early-restoration-04212011.pdf">www.restorethegulf.gov/sites/default/files/documents/pdf/framework-for-early-restoration-04212011.pdf</a>
<b>The <i>Deepwater Horizon</i> Oil Spill Multidistrict Litigation</b>	<a href="http://www.laed.uscourts.gov/OilSpill/OilSpill.htm">www.laed.uscourts.gov/OilSpill/OilSpill.htm</a>

### Sources for Additional Information

<b>U.S. Fish &amp; Wildlife Service – NRDA</b>	<a href="http://www.fws.gov/home/dhoilspill">www.fws.gov/home/dhoilspill</a>
<b>Gulf Coast Ecosystem Restoration Task Force (GCERTF)</b>	<a href="http://www.restorethegulf.gov">www.restorethegulf.gov</a> ; <a href="http://epa.gov/gulfcoasttaskforce">http://epa.gov/gulfcoasttaskforce</a>
<b>GCERTF, GULF OF MEXICO REGIONAL ECOSYSTEM RESTORATION STRATEGY</b>	<a href="http://www.epa.gov/gcertf/pdfs/GulfCoastReport_Full_12-04_508-1.pdf">www.epa.gov/gcertf/pdfs/GulfCoastReport_Full_12-04_508-1.pdf</a>
<b>Gulf of Mexico Research Initiative (GoMRI)</b>	<a href="http://www.gulfresearchinitiative.org">www.gulfresearchinitiative.org</a>
<b>National Commission on the BP Deepwater Horizon Oil Spill</b>	<a href="http://www.oilspillcommission.gov">www.oilspillcommission.gov</a>
<b>National Oceanic &amp; Atmospheric Administration – NRDA</b>	<a href="http://www.gulfspillrestoration.noaa.gov">www.gulfspillrestoration.noaa.gov</a>
<b>Ray Mabus, Secretary of the Navy, AMERICA’S GULF COAST</b>	<a href="http://www.epa.gov/gcertf/pdfs/MabusReport.pdf">www.epa.gov/gcertf/pdfs/MabusReport.pdf</a>